



Brownfield Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, October 2005

Kaiser Steel

Site Facts

Site Name:

Kaiser Steel

Location:

Fontana, CA

Site Size:

880 acres

Historical Uses:

Steel production

Contaminants of Concern:

Light Oils, Motor Fuels, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Redeveloped Use:

World-Class Racetrack

The Kaiser Steel Resources facility, located in Fontana, California, was Southern California's leading producer of steel and steel related products for more than 40 years. This facility was the country's only integrated steel mill located west of the Rockies. The 880 acre mill site once supplied steel for WWII shipyards and was the city's primary source of jobs and revenue. In 1983 the Kaiser Steel Corporation (KSC) went bankrupt – the mill was shut down permanently, and thousands of workers were laid off. This parcel remained abandoned for the next 10 years.

In 1985, due to an environmental assessment conducted by J. M. Montgomery at the request of KSC, both the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency became involved with the site. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection was completed in an effort to identify areas of contamination. Two remedial investigation reports concluded that approximately five percent of the site needed remediation. The site has since been split into four separate sites: the Tar Pits area, the Byproducts area, the Chemwest area, and the Landfill area. The Byproducts Area, a 340-acre site in the northern part of the parcel, was where coking operations were processed to produce other materials of potential value. Numerous underground storage tanks containing light oils, motor fuels, and various Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) were also located in this portion. This area was found to contain elevated soil concentrations of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and VOC's. Remedial actions included a 14-acre synthetic membrane cap, construction, in-situ soil vapor extraction, excavation, on-site soil treatment, and off-site disposal of over 7,000 cubic yards of impacted soil, and treatment of 21,000 tons of residuals from air pollution control systems.

In 1994 Kaiser Ventures joined forces with Penske Motorsports to create a reuse plan. The project consisted of construction of a world class, state-of-the-art racing track. A 500-acre portion of the site was remediated in just six-months to make way for development. In June, 1997, construction was completed and the Roger Penske Auto Raceway was opened to the public. The speedway has brought back jobs and revenue once lost when the steel mill shut down. The new Fontana racetrack is an example of how a combination of innovative approaches and flexible management can produce a venue that benefits the community and the region.



State of
California



Department of Toxic
Substances Control

